

Docket No. F-7228

Scr. No. 09/989,291

REMARKS

Claims 15-33 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-10 and 12-14 are rejected and are cancelled herein. Claims 3, 8, and 11 are previously cancelled. New claims 15-33 are added. Claims 15, 24 and 33 respectively replace claims 1, 13 and 14.

The new claims have revised wording of the prior claims to more clearly and concisely state the invention. For example, use of the term "drive" is now replaced with a broader yet clearly understandable term "controlled device." Excess wording such as "information" modifying "data" is also removed since it is redundant as data is information. Indentations are made to provide a better understanding of the claim structure. Other formal matters are attended to that were not addressed by the Examiner and accordingly are considered unrelated to substantive patentability issues.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-10 and 12-14 are rejected as obvious over the Hirobumi reference in view of the Jicha reference under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The applicant herein respectfully traverses this rejection. For a rejection under 35 U.S.C.

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§103(a) to be sustained, the differences between the features of the combined references and the present invention must be obvious to one skilled in the art.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-10 and 12-14 are now cancelled rendering their rejection moot. However, insofar as the subject matter of new claims 15-33 reflects that of the cancelled claims and in the event the Examiner considers asserting the present rejection against the new claims or making the next Office Action final, applicants submit the following remarks.

The present invention provides a remote control and a controlled device which communicate by transmission of a data set having a predefined structure. In this structure there are identification data, operation control data, and discrimination data. The data set is received by the controlled device and the operation control data is used to effect control of operations of the device. Since there may be multiple controlled devices and multiple remote controls, the controlled device must be able to determine when the data set is directed to the particular controlled device. In order to do so, the controlled device compares the identification data included in the data set with identification data stored in a data storage of the controlled device. If the identification data corresponds, then the operation control information data is used to effect control of the controlled device.

In order to for discriminators to operate on the data set, the data set has a predefined structure so that when it is received by the controlled object,

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discriminators can act on respective portions of the data set because the data is at a predetermined location in the data set. The claims now recite that the data set includes:

transmitter specifying data at a first data set position of said predefined structure, for identifying said transmitter from among a plurality of transmitters; and
controlled device specifying data at a second at data set position of said predefined structure, for identifying said controlled device from among a plurality of controlled devices[.]

Thus, for operation control data to be used, the second discriminator acts on the data at the first and second data set positions to determine if the operation control data is intended for the controlled device.

Since multiple controlled devices may be present, the user will want to change the stored identification data in the controlled device if there is another controlled device with the same data. This is done by the use of the discrimination data indicating whether control of operations of the controlled device is to be effected or replacement of stored identification data in the controlled device is to be effected. This is reflected in the following claim language:

discrimination data for discriminating whether said controlled device specifying data at said second data set position enables control by said operation control data or replaces said stored identification data[.]

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The controlled device receives the identification data in the first and second data set positions and uses it to replace the stored identification data when the discriminator data is determined to relate to changing the stored identification data.

This is reflected in the following claim language:

an identification changer for replacing said stored identification data with said identification data of said data set received in response to said first discriminator determining that said discrimination data of said data set received relates to changing said stored identification data.

The above features of the present invention using the discrimination data, as recited in the claims, allow the identification data at the first and second data set position to be used for both enabling operation by control data or for changing the stored identification data. Thus, transmission is simplified in that the identification data, whether it is used to control operations or to update stored identification data, is always transmitted at the same positions of the data set and that only the identification information at the first and second data set positions is needed to effect a change of the identification information in the controlled device.

This yields the unique feature of the present invention that a controlled device will respond to a data set that does not include identification information matching the identification information stored in the device. The controlled device responds by updating the store identification information with the transmitted

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identification information only when the discrimination data relates that changing identification information is the purpose of the transmission.

Since the controlled device will react to identification information that does not correspond to the stored identification information, the present invention provides a further feature embodied in the shielded housing of claims 20, 22, 29 and 30. This prevents controlled devices other than the one in the shielded housing from unintentionally changing their identification information.

Neither the Hirohumi nor the Jicha references provides such a teaching. The Examiner cites the Hirohumi reference for teaching a remote control system and the Jicha reference for teaching "discrimination data for discriminating between operation control or of (sic) identification data." However, the Jicha patent fails to teach a system wherein a transmission of a single set of identification information alone, i.e., the identification information at the first and second data set positions of the claims, can be used to change identification information. Jicha specifically states that "[a]ny received commands are validated by comparing the car ID present in the command to the stored car ID of the HSRM 12. Validated commands are then initiated." Col. 7, lines 47-50. The ID command must therefore include an "ID provided in the data transmitted with the command," i.e., the new ID, in addition to ID data matching that of the ID stored in the HSRM for the new ID to be stored in the HSRM. Col. 8, lines 1-3. This also

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means that new ID data in the command cannot be at the same data position in the command as the ID used to match the ID of the HSRM for validation purposes. As such, the Jicha reference fails to teach or suggest the presently claimed invention.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the new claims are not obvious in view of the cited references for the reasons stated above and their allowance is respectfully requested.

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Applicant respectfully requests a two month extension of time for responding to the Office Action. Please charge the fee of \$120.00 for the extension of time to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

If there is any discrepancy between the fee(s) due and the fee payment authorized the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge any fee(s) or fee(s) deficiency or credit any excess payment to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

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